



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CONNECTICUT, INC.®

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**Energy and Technology Committee
Public Hearing
March 4, 2014**

Submitted by Lynn Taborsak, Climate Change Specialist
in support of

SB 353: An Act Concerning the Development of Class 1 Renewable Energy Source Projects

SB 352: An Act Concerning the State Building Code

SB 357 An Act Concerning Energy Efficient Building Standards and Product Efficiency Standards

HB 5412: An Act Concerning Shared Clean Energy Facilities

The League of Women Voters of Connecticut is a non-partisan statewide organization comprised of over 1600 members in 27 local chapters and committed to effective public policy and the active participation of citizens in their government. We very much appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of these measures.

The League has consistently supported policies to reduce energy consumption, encourage energy conservation and promote the use of renewable resources. We are grateful that this legislature has consistently adopted proposals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and decrease our carbon foot print.

SB 353 allows generation facilities to produce more megawatts of Class I “clean” energy and enter into long term “bundled price” contracts with electric distribution companies to benefit Connecticut ratepayers with cleaner air, more energy diversity, improved reliability and price stability. An additional benefit of this Class 1 expansion is that many of these projects will create Connecticut-based Class 1 energy sources.

SB 352 makes energy efficiency and energy conservation the gold standard in the design and construction of new buildings and major renovations by requiring adoption of the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code. It also stipulates that the conservation code will incorporate any *new* revisions to the code annually, instead of “as deemed necessary”. In addition it encourages circuits that can support the charging of electric vehicles, where practicable.

SB 357 allows municipalities to adopt high performance building construction standards in lieu of the State Building Code for new commercial construction or large scale renovations. It also allows municipalities to require a home energy rating score of 70 or higher for any new residential construction. We have very successful programs to help individuals and businesses retrofit their buildings to conserve energy. Rigorous building code standards perform the same function. They are the ounce of prevention that is worth a pound of the cure.

HB 5412 will allow state residents to invest in a shared clean energy project and receive credit on their bill for a portion of the clean energy that is produced. It will directly benefit renters, condo owners and home owners who don’t have a suitable location or can’t afford the price tag.